

AgriBiz!

SC Agricultural Education Magazine

Volume XIV Issue 3 2013



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Leadership. Growth. Success.

National Convention

CDE Winners

Ag Tailgate

Chapter Happenings

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Designer

Clinton D. Henderson III

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National FFA Convention Moves to Louisville

Contributed by Keith Cox

Hundreds of FFA members from across South Carolina joined the over 56,000 members from all 50 states in Louisville Kentucky for the 86th Annual FFA National Convention during the last week in October. The theme for this year's convention was "Ignite" and focused on individual leadership, growth and success.

The convention consisted of nine general sessions.

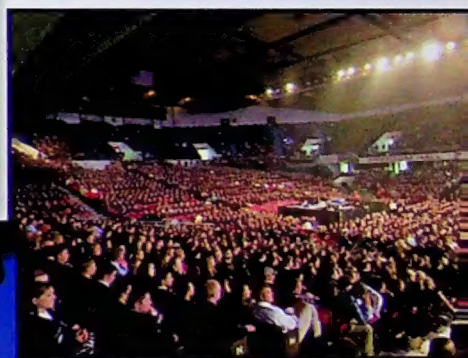
The sessions featured speakers such as Rick Pittino, University of Louisville's men's basketball coach, Joe Torillo, a member of the New York Fire Department who survived being buried twice during the collapse of the twin towers during 9-11 and Josh Sundquist a member of the U.S. Paralympic Ski Team. In addition, FFA members were treated to a performance by country music star Dierks Bentley.

Another highlight of the convention was the FFA Expo. The Expo consisted of over 450 industry-leading exhibitors providing students with the chance to discover agricultural careers. In addition, students had the opportunity to explore post-secondary job training and educational opportunities while visiting with 120 colleges from around the nation.

Teams from South Carolina had the opportunity to challenge their skills against other states in Career Development Events. South Carolina teams participated in multiple CDE's, ranging from Livestock Judging to Parliamentary Procedure.

Throughout the week, students also had the opportunity to attend leadership and personal growth workshops. FFA members also participated in community service projects including those to help beautify the city, volunteer at food banks, harvest and distribute locally grown produce, package meals for families in need, clean parks and more.

The National FFA Organization provides leadership, personal growth and career success training through agricultural education to 579,678 student members in grades seven through 12 who belong to one of 7,570 local FFA chapters throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.



Honorary American FFA Degree Presented to Three of South Carolina's Finest

Contributed by Keith Cox

The Honorary American FFA Degree is awarded to individuals who have provided exceptional service to agriculture, agricultural education or the FFA are eligible for this degree.

The SC FFA Association is proud to announce that Dr. Thomas R. "Tom" Scott, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences; Kathy Coleman, Director of State Relations, Office of Governmental Affairs and John Weathers, Agricultural Teacher and mentor for 38 years, traveled to Louisville KY to receive their degree on stage at the National FFA Convention on November 1st. The honorees also attended a congratulatory dinner the night before hosted by the SC FFA Association and the SC Agricultural Education Staff.



Vickery and Barnett are National Finalist at 86th National FFA Convention & Expo

Contributed by Keith Cox

Savannah Vickery was selected as a National Finalist for the Agriculture Education area. Savannah was only one of the four people competing for this national award.

Her SAE had a 5-part agricultural education initiative. She believes that Ag Ed shouldn't stop in the classroom but instead reach entire communities. In order to do that she taught a group of first graders using the Junior Master Gardening Curriculum, She founded the Riverside Middle School Agriculture Club, FFA Fridays during which she lead a committee of older FFA members in teaching lessons to all of the introductory agriculture classes at Pendleton High. Savannah also volunteered with a nonprofit agriculture group called Mane Solutions, which is a therapeutic riding program for special needs individuals. The last aspect was to showcase the diversity of Ag Ed by organizing the Mr. FFA Scholarship Competition. Over the past 2 years the Mr. FFA Competition has had over 50 male FFA members compete and the winner presented a \$500 scholarship. The SC FFA Association is very proud of Savannah's accomplishment.



Courtney Barnett of Clover really has an eye for selecting good horses. When asked about her horse-judging career, Courtney was honored and gracious. Courtney stated: "I have grown up involved with the horse industry and started horse judging when I was about 10. Although I have been judging for quite some time I can honestly say that I am just now starting to enjoy it. Horse judging has greatly improved my knowledge in the industry, my confidence level and my public speaking. My favorite part is going into the judge's room and confidently and professionally defining my reasons. My reason may not agree with the judge's but I have to sell my opinion. Horses have and will always be a huge part of my life but whether they will stay recreational or move to professional is still undecided." The SC FFA is proud of her and Courtney's Advisor Kelsey Anderson.



National Officer Candidate for South Carolina



Logan Layne of the Manning Chapter and former 2011-12 State FFA Vice President served as the National Officer candidate representing the South Carolina FFA Association. Layne advanced to the second phase of the process, which placed him in the top 24 in the nation.

Membership Award



The South Carolina FFA Association received an award for an increase in membership. This is a 35-year high for our state and the association would like to thank all the teachers for their hard work to make this honor possible. State President Anna Mink accepted the award.

Past National Officer from SC Inducted into Pelion High School Hall of Fame

Contributed by Frank R. Stover, Jr., Pelion FFA Chapter Advisor

Robert Rish, a past FFA National Officer from South Carolina was inducted into the Pelion High School Hall of Fame for his lifetime of achievement. The ceremony was held October 18 during half time of the Pelion vs. Columbia High football game. A reception was held preceding the game in the Agribusiness Center to honor the newest Hall of Fame member. Pelion FFA officers were on hand to congratulate him.

Raised on Fair Acres Farm by Mr. and Mrs. Bennett Rish, Robert Rish was very familiar with agricultural living. This experience served him well when he entered Pelion High School and became a member of the Future Farmers of America. Almost immediately he began to excel. He was elected chapter Sentinel as a sophomore and then went on to be a member of the beef judging team. In 1964 he was a member of the state winning soil judging team that went on to compete in the National Land Judging Contest in Oklahoma City, the State winning Parliamentary Procedure team in 1964, and participated in the Public Speaking contest for two years finally winning the District contest. He was selected Star Chapter Farmer, and served as Chapter FFA President his senior year.

Following high school graduation in 1965, he was elected in June as State FFA President, attended the National Convention in Kansas City for the first time, and entered the University of South Carolina on an NROTC scholarship. In November 1966 he went to Kansas City a second time and was awarded the American Farmer degree. In November 1967, he was elected National FFA Vice President for the Southern Region. Even today, he is one of only three National FFA officers from South Carolina.

The learning experiences of that year were incalculable. Arriving at the pinnacle of the FFA and becoming a National Officer required several traits that successful people have in common; hard work, honesty, goal setting, and treating others fairly. That year served to sharpen those traits and provide additional skills which have continued to be an integral part of his life.

Back in college at USC, Captain Rish graduated in June 1970 and was commissioned an Ensign in the U. S. Navy. In 1975 he graduated with a Masters from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. Captain Rish's naval career was almost exclusively in the Submarine service. He has served on seven different submarines and served as Commander of two submarines, the USS James Madison from 1987 to 1990, and USS Kentucky from 1992 to 1994. In June 1997, Captain Rish assumed command of the Naval Weapons Station in Charleston, SC.

Captain Rish retired from the Navy in 2000 and is now employed as a senior consultant in Charleston, SC by GeoLogics Corporation, a DOD contractor.

Captain Rish has been married forty-three years to the former Joyce Black of Batesburg. They are proud parents of three children all of which are college graduates and have successful careers.



Robert Rish, Past National FFA Officer from Pelion is surrounded by Pelion FFA members during a reception in his honor as he was inducted into the Pelion High School Hall of Fame.



1967-68 National FFA Officer Team: Back Row: Robert Rish, VP South Carolina, John Gemmill, VP Arizona, Richard Jones, VP New York, William Boehm, VP Wisconsin; Front Row: Greg Bamford, President Colorado, Paul Diehl, Secretary, Missouri



I believe in the future of agriculture, with a faith born not of words but of deeds - achievements won by the present and past generations of agriculturists; in the promise of better days through better ways, even as the better things we now enjoy have come to us from the struggles of former years.

Clemson Hosts Annual Ag Tailgate

Contributed by Kirby Player, CAFLS Clemson University

The 21st Annual CAFLS Alumni Tailgate took place on Saturday, October 12th before the Clemson/Boston College football game. The State FFA officer team assisted in the day's activities.

This year's event was one of the largest ever with over 2000 alumni, friends, students, staff and faculty attending. Thirty-six different organizations and departments were represented at displays and interactive booths both in and outside of Fike Field House. In addition, a SC Tasty Tailgate of food samples was served and a 1 Million Dollar gift from the Butch and Joy Ferree of Clemson, SC was announced during the event brief on-stage program.

The SC Farm Bureau serves as the naming sponsor. Other sponsors included:

- AgSouth Farm Credit, ACA
- ArborOne Farm Credit
- McLeods Farms of McBee, SC
- South Carolina Soybean Board
- Southern States Cooperative
- Specialty Fertilizer Products
- Utz Quality Foods, Inc.

This multidimensional event continues to be the largest annual, non-athletic gathering of Clemson alumni on the main campus.



ArborOne Holds Annual Aim-at-Ag Fundraiser

Contributed by Keith Cox

Black River Sporting Clays in Kingstree was the location of the Aim-at-Ag fundraiser conducted by ArborOne Farm Credit of Florence.

The Aim-At-Ag Tournament had a great turn out for the third year. Participants had the opportunity to test their shooting skills on the challenging 12 station course, win door prizes, and purchase raffle tickets throughout the day. The event concluded with lunch and an awards ceremony. It was a family event to help promote gun safety and usage, outdoor appreciation and fellowship.

The tournament was a huge success last year with the proceeds being split between the South Carolina 4-H and South Carolina FFA Association. Each group received \$12,600 last year and they hope to top \$15,000 this year.

Special thanks to the Crestwood, Lake View, Latta, East Clarendon, Lakewood, Manning, Darlington IT and Barnwell CCC for participating and helping with the event. Members of the South Carolina FFA State Officer team also participated in the event and expressed their sincere gratitude to ArborOne from the SC FFA Association.



ARBORONE
FARM CREDIT

Students Challenged by FFA CDE's

Contributed by Billy Keels



As an integral part of Agricultural Education, the FFA provides students with opportunities for personal leadership and career success.

A Key tool utilized by the FFA is the Career Development Event (CDE). CDE's allow students an opportunity to compete with their peers as they demonstrate what they have learned in the classroom. These competitions serve as a motivator for learning and also allow students to develop confidence in their abilities, which leads to career success.

The South Carolina FFA Association currently offers CDE's in 25 different areas that encompass all of the subjects taught in the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Career Cluster. Annually, literally thousands of FFA members from over 100 schools from all regions in South Carolina participate in the events, which are held throughout the year and at various locations around the state.

State events are coordinated by Clemson University and are conducted through the assistance of area industry experts in the associated fields of study.

For the majority of the CDE's, state winners have the opportunity to compete on a National level against FFA Chapters from all 50 states, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.



Fall CDE Winners

1st Place Soils CDE Team Pelion FFA Chapter



Savannah Vickery
(State Officer)
Robbie Kell,
Brandon Myers,
Colt Bedenbough
(in back), Bayleah
Jackson, Ron
Berry.
Advisor Frank
Stover Cameron
Padgett (State
Officer)

1st Place Equine CDE Team West Oak FFA Chapter



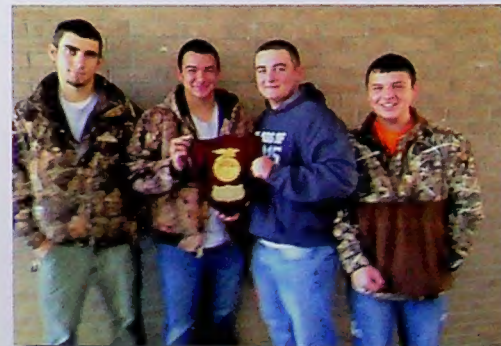
(L-R) Randi
Leigh Baxley
– Advisor,
Katie
Hudson,
Abbee
Carnes,
Kayla Sloan,
and Mikayla
Ruhland.

2nd Place Soils CDE Team Pendleton FFA Chapter



(L-R) Savannah
Vickery (State
Vice President),
Clayton Partain,
Phillip Leaf, Casey
Nix, Josh Pruitt,
Cameron Padgett

1st Place Tractor Operation & Safety Latta FFA Chapter



John Bethea,
Coley
Jackson,
Nic Bethea,
Dakota Cook



I believe that to live and work on a good farm, or to be engaged in other agricultural pursuits, is pleasant as well as challenging; for I know the joys and discomforts of agricultural life and hold an inborn fondness for those associations which, even in hours of discouragement, I cannot deny.

SC Association of Fairs Scholarship Presented to Four FFA Members

Contributed by Keith Cox

SC Association of Fairs presented four Agricultural Education students a \$500 scholarship for their excellence in Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE), FFA Leadership, School and Community Activities and Scholastic Ability.

The students were presented with the award Oct. 15 by Nancy Smith, President of the SCAF, during the 2013 South Carolina FFA Day at the State Fair in Columbia before a statewide audience of FFA members, agricultural educators, and agricultural industry leaders.

Lower State Region winner is Coltin Nobles from the Barnwell FFA Chapter. Coltin will be attending O-C Technical College and then transfer to Clemson University to major in Agriculture Business. Coltin's advisor is Mindy Sandifer.

Pee Dee Region winner is Trey Gardner from the Manning FFA Chapter. Trey plans on attending Clemson University and majoring in Agriculture Education. Trey's advisor is Michael Haynes.

Mid State Region winner is Bayleah Rae Jackson from the Pelion FFA Chapter. Bayleah plans on attending Clemson University and majoring in Agriculture Education. Bayleah's Advisors are Frank Stover and Jacob Hathcox.

Piedmont Region winner is Cassandra Calvo from the Laurens FFA Chapter. Cassandra plans on attending Abraham Baldwin Agriculture College and majoring in Agriculture Education. Cassandra's advisors are Melanie Birchmore and Kyle Penland.



FFA Joins SC State Fair in From Field to Fair Program

Contributed by Billy Keels
with excerpts from SC State Fair Press releases

The South Carolina State Fair has introduced a wide-ranging program called "From Field to Fair" designed to educate entertain and motivate consumers about the wonders – and profound importance – of agriculture in South Carolina.

The State Fair created "From Field To Fair" by bringing together ag-related resources around the state and educational tools from the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture to continue to expand its tradition of promoting the agriculture industry in South Carolina.

The "From Field to Fair" program puts a strong emphasis on education for young people. The program's section on the State Fair website features "My American Farm", an interactive experience of 16 games with names like "Harvest This!" "Amazing Grains", and "That's Life, Let's Grow" specifically designed for grades Pre-K-5th Grade. The games teach children about farming and sustainability in a fun, participatory, age appropriate fashion, while adhering to key curriculum standards for math, science, social science, English and health.

Each completed game awards participants with a "stamp" to be placed in their personal My American Farm "Passport to Sustainability". Every youngster who completes the series of challenges is recognized as an official "Ambassador of Agriculture" and is awarded a blue ribbon at the State Fair.

The South Carolina FFA Association joined the efforts to promote the From Field to Fair program by working with schools in their area to introduce students of all ages to the program. According to Nancy Smith, Assistant Director of the SC State Fair, "this is the initial year of a great partnership between the State Fair and the SC FFA. We are pleased with the efforts of the FFA Chapters participating this year and look forward to continued growth in this program through this partnership in the years to come."

For their efforts in promoting the program, seven chapters from around the state were recognized by the SC State Fair at the FFA Day assembly held in the Nutt arena during the Fair.

Check out the Farm Field to Fair website at:
<http://scstatefair.org/fair/field-to-fair/>



Or use your smartphone to scan this code:



I believe in leadership from ourselves and respect from others. I believe in my own ability to work efficiently and think clearly, with such knowledge and skill as I can secure, and in the ability of progressive agriculturists to serve our own and the public interest in producing and marketing the product of our toil.

FFA Day at the State Fair

Contributed by Keith Cox

On October 15th hundreds of FFA members, Agricultural Teachers and guests gathered at the Nutt Livestock Arena to be welcomed by Gary Goodman, General Manager, to the 2013 SC State Fair.

After the ceremony the members had a chance to participate in or watch the State Tractor Operation and Safety Career Development Event, study the livestock, tour the many displays through out the fair buildings and of course enjoy the rides and food that the SC State Fair offers.

The SC State Fair has a long-standing tradition of successfully promoting the FFA. The SC State Fair hosted the organizational meeting of the Future Palmetto Farmers at the 1927 fair. This was a forerunner of the South Carolina Association of Future Farmers of America. Now today as the South Carolina FFA Association.

The SC FFA and the State Fair would like to give the Aiken FFA a special thank you for providing mums and pumpkins that decorated the Nutt Livestock Arena.

*Top to bottom:
Gary Goodman welcomes
the FFA Members.*

*Some of the From Field
to Fair Chapters.*

*State Secretary Shelby
Wayne calls the group
to order.*



National FFA President Visits SC

Contributed by Regina Fitzpatrick

This fall, the SC FFA received a visit from a special guest, National FFA President Clay Sapp. Clay came to South Carolina to join FFA members at the Chapter Opportunity Workshops held in September.

While on his visit, Clay had the opportunity to see some exciting places in South Carolina! The days were spent traveling to chapters for visits, workshops, and sightseeing. Sapp, who is an avid Florida State fan, even had a chance to enjoy a visit to the Clemson Tigers Stadium.

Clay also had a chance to visit many schools in South Carolina to include Bryson Middle School, Barnwell Co. Career Center, the Center for Advanced Technical Studies, Latta High School, Orangeburg 5 Technology Center, Hillcrest High School, and Fairfield Career Center.



SC FFA Host Chapter Opportunity Workshops

Contributed by Regina Fitzpatrick

Chapter Opportunity Workshops started the school year off right for SC FFA. Over 500 students participated in workshops focusing on leadership, growth, and advocating for agriculture. FFA members met at local high schools for a fun filled afternoon with other FFA members from their region. This year, members got a special treat, as they received a visit from National FFA President, Clay Sapp of Florida.

Students were able to fully live out the FFA mission of "learning to do, doing to learn, earning to live, and living to serve." Their short time in workshops proved valuable as many members were challenged to be "Ag"vocates for agriculture and FFA.

A very special thank you to Hillcrest High School, Fairfield Career Center, Latta High School, and Orangeburg 5 Technology Center for serving as host schools.



I believe in less dependence on begging and more power in bargaining; in the life abundant and enough honest wealth to help make it so--for others as well as myself; in less need for charity and more of it when needed; in being happy myself and playing square with those whose happiness depends upon me.

Teachers Attend NAAE National Conference

Contributed by Billy Keels

Agriculture Teachers from South Carolina joined hundreds of Agriculture Teachers from around the nation at the Annual NAAE Conference in Las Vegas. The conference provided in-service opportunities as well as opportunities to network with agriculture teachers from around the nation. The conference was held in conjunction with the National ACTE VISIONS 2013 conference, which included breakout sessions, keynote speakers, exhibitors, and one-on-one meetings with ACTE executives and CTE experts.

During the conference, several South Carolina agriculture teachers were recognized nationally for their accomplishments. Those recognized included: Blake Berry from Pendleton High School as the Region V Young Teacher of the Year, Robert Bollier from Cheraw High School as Region V Agriscience Teacher of the Year and Katie Gilson from Kershaw County ATEC who was recognized through the Teacher Turn the Key program. Al Gray from Darlington Institute of Technology was also recognized as a DuPont AgriScience Ambassador.



Back Row L to R: Al Gray – Darlington, Robert Bollier – Cheraw, Billy Keels – State Director of Ag Ed, Blake Berry – Pendleton, Derrick Cooper – Gilbert, Dr. Phil Fravel – Clemson University,

Front Row L to R: Farrah Johnson – NAAE National President, Kristen Rhinehart – Fort Mill, Mindy Sandifer – Barnwell, Katie Gilson – Kershaw, Amanda Nichols – Saluda



SC Educators Take Top Honors In NAAE Region V

Contributed by Steve Sanderson

The South Carolina Association of Agriculture Educators has a long history in receiving national recognition from the National Association of Agriculture Educators. This year South Carolina will be recognized on the national level in three of the Award Areas.

Mr. Robert Bollier, Agriculture Educator and FFA Advisor at Cheraw High School, was recognized as the NAAE Region V Agriscience Teacher of the Year. This award recognizes teachers who have inspired and enlightened their students through engaging and interactive lessons in the science of agriculture. This program is sponsored by PotashCorp as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Mr. Blake Berry was also recognized as the NAAE Region V Outstanding Young Member. Mr. Berry is the Agriculture Instructor and FFA Advisor at Pendleton High School. The NAAE Outstanding Young Member award was developed as a means of encouraging young teachers to remain in the profession and to encourage and recognize participation in professional activities. This award program is sponsored by John Deere as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Agricultural education is continually faced with a shortage of qualified teachers. Unless those who have been trained enter and remain in the profession for a period of several years, the shortage of qualified teachers will prevail. As a means of encouraging young teachers to remain in the profession and to encourage and recognize participation in professional activities, NAAE offers the Teachers Turn the Key Scholarship.

This year one of the Turn The Key Scholarships was presented to Ms. Katie Gilson, Agriculture Instructor and FFA Advisor of the Kershaw County Applied Technology Center. The scholarship program is sponsored by RAM Trucks as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

These three educators will represent South Carolina and NAAE Region V at the NAAE Conference in Las Vegas.



Union County Schools Nutrition Program Prompts Governor's Visit

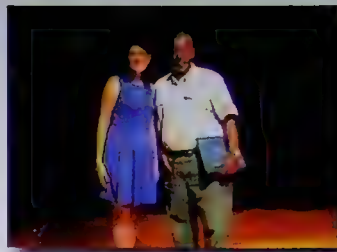
Taken from Union County Schools Press Release

Governor Niki Haley recently paid a visit to Union County Schools to examine a food and nutrition program, which was initiated under the leadership of Superintendent Dr. Kristi Woodall.

The program utilizes locally grown produce to ensure that students are learning healthy and learning about the foods that they eat.

Involved in the program are the Union County Career Center Agricultural Education program, under the leadership of Cleveland Jackson, the South Carolina Department of Agriculture, DHEC and local farmers.

Through the program, local farmers provide produce such as melons, cucumbers, squash and greens to the school. The students are shown how to prepare the items as well as educated on the nutritional value of the healthy snacks. The program currently targets kindergarten students with plans of possible expansion into other grades in the future.



McBee Agriculture Teacher Featured In American Teacher, Heroes in the Classroom

Contributed by Keith Cox

American Teacher, Heroes in the Classroom, a book by Katrina Fried, celebrates educators, who go far above and beyond the call of duty. The book shines a spotlight on one of the most underappreciated, undercompensated, yet critically important professions in the world.

Over the course of two years, the author has interviewed and written the stories of 50 extraordinary teachers from kindergarten through 12th grade, selected from public and charter schools across the United States.

Pat Earle, Agriculture Teacher at McBee High School was one of the 50 teachers chosen for inclusion in this new book. Earle was the only Agriculture teacher in the nation highlighted.

The book, *12 Rules for Being a True Classroom Hero* was introduced on October 16 at the Barnes & Noble in Florence SC where Earle was present.



Governor Meets with Barnwell FFA

Contributed by Mindy Sandifer, Barnwell County Career Center FFA Chapter Advisor

Officers of the Barnwell County Career Center FFA Chapter and their advisor, Mindy Sandifer, met with Governor Nikki Haley, where they had the opportunity to discuss their future career plans. Haley provided great information about the importance of agriculture in S.C. and encouraged the group to achieve their goals of various degrees in Agriculture.

Haley visited the school along with representatives from the Savannah River Site to introduce a program in the area to save energy beginning with school facilities.



Socastee FFA Members Promote AgriTourism at Freewoods Farm

Contributed by Austin McCoy, Socastee FFA Chapter Reporter



Agriculture students from Socastee High School participated in the sugar cane harvest and syrup making at Freewoods Farm in Horry County. Agricultural Science and Technology students volunteer each year at this time to help promote the living history farm and learn some of the history of agriculture in the area. Harvesting and stripping the sugar cane is labor intensive, so it exposes the students to how mechanization has changed farming over the years.

Freewoods is a 40-acre living history farm museum replicating life on small southern family farms owned and/or operated by African Americans between 1865-1900. The Freewoods project has the following primary goals: 1) to develop a comprehensive, hands-on educational program emphasizing life on small animal/human powered farms operated by African Americans; 2) to provide public education on the importance of small family farms to the economic prosperity of the state and nation; and 3) to promote tourism and minority economic development. The farm consists of tilled fields, grazing land, and farm buildings of the period, such as a main farmhouse, a smokehouse, a tool shed, and livestock, tobacco, and storage barns. While Freewoods celebrates the small southern farm owned and operated by African Americans, it is also representative of all small farms throughout the South.

The Socastee FFA Chapter assists with other events at Freewoods throughout the year such as Vegifest and their Farmer's Market. It is a part of their Program of Activities, Division III – Community Development, under the area of economic development.

Visit Freewoods Farm at www.freewoodsfarm.com



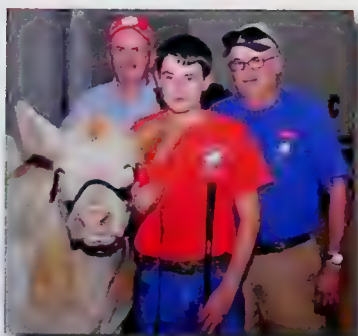
Keasler Named SC Beef Industry Ambassador

Contributed by John W. Parris

COLUMBIA, SC.....Lane Keasler of Anderson, a junior at Westside High School and a member of the Anderson FFA Chapter, was recently named Beef Ambassador by the South Carolina Beef Council, reports John W. Parris, director of the SC Agri-News Service. Lane took first place honors in the Senior Division of the Beef Ambassador Competition held the first week-end of August in conjunction with the SC Junior Beef Round-Up at Clemson University's Garrison Livestock Arena.

Roy Copelan, executive director of the SC Cattlemen's Association and the SC Beef Council, said Lane will serve as the spokesperson for the South Carolina beef industry during 2014 and represent the state in the national finals for the nation's beef ambassador title.

Lane is fast becoming a pro at showing beef cattle as a result of his successful participation in a number of shows and fairs in recent years. "While competing in the SC State Fair



Anderson FFA member Lane Keasler (center) is shown with his uncle Dan Keasler (left), a former president of the SC FFA Organization, and his father, Louis Keasler, a former state FFA secretary, during a Junior Beef Cattle Show at the South Carolina State Fair in Columbia in 2012.

in Columbia last fall, Lane captured the first place title in the Junior Charolais Showmanship finals," Mr. Parris said. "His animals are always perfectly groomed for the shows and respond positively to his gentle nudge as he keeps his eye on the judge," he added.

The owner of a small herd of Charolais beef cattle, Lane keeps the animals on his family's 700 acre farm in the Center Rock Community of Anderson County.

"Being active in the FFA is a family tradition for Lane because his dad, Louis, served as the state FFA secretary in 1975-76 and his uncle, Dan Keasler, served as state FFA president in 1978-79," Mr. Parris said. The Keaslers are alumni of the Anderson FFA Chapter.

Lane is enrolled in Agri-Science courses at the Anderson School District Five Career Campus where his instructors are Jay Copelan and Marie Bolt.





Start growing a career.

We all know that agriculture is an important part of South Carolina's heritage. But did you know that agriculture-based businesses play a critical and expanding role in the growth of the state's economy?

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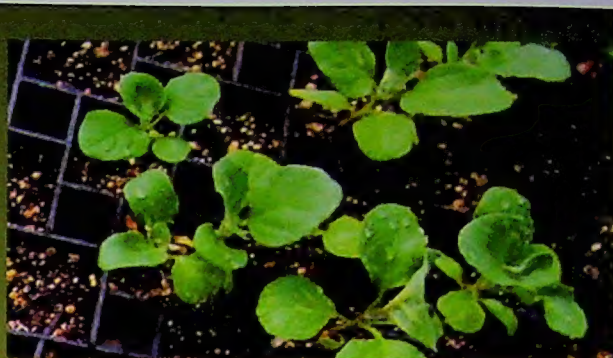
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